

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1 and 3-9 are allowed.

Examiner's Amendment

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

3. Examiner on 8/27/2008 called the applicant's representative seeking an examiner's amendment to further clarify the claimed invention. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given by Gerald Glanzman (Reg. No. 25,035). Examiner's amendment is necessitated to further clarify the claimed invention.

Claim 1 has been further amended below.

1. (Currently Amended) A method in a data processing system of presenting coverage data for code, the method comprising:
receiving, by an instruction cache, code for execution;

responsive to the code being executed by an execution unit, sending a signal, by a completion buffer, to the instruction cache that the code has executed, wherein the completion buffer comprises information identifying the code for which execution has completed;

responsive to receiving the signal from the completion buffer, setting, by the instruction cache, in metadata, an instruction access indicator, wherein the metadata comprises a prefetch indicator in the form of a pointer, an identification of data to be prefetched from a data structure identified by the pointer, and an identification of the data through the use of an offset or an address, wherein each instruction access indicator is associated with a different portion of the code, and wherein each instruction access indicator is initialized as being unset prior to execution of its associated code portion;

obtaining the coverage data containing instruction access indicators associated with the code;

generating a presentation for the coverage data, wherein each set instruction access indicator is identified in the presentation; and

identifying unset instruction access indicators that have remained unset during the execution of the code by the processor, wherein each unset instruction access indicator is associated with an unexecuted portion of the code, and wherein each unset instruction access indicator is identified in the presentation.

Examiner's Statement of Reason(s) for Allowance

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record (i.e. McMillan et al. USPN 6,118,448) taken alone or in combination with other fails to teach or reasonably suggest in combination with other claimed limitations responsive to the code being executed by an execution unit, sending a signal, by a completion buffer, to the instruction cache that the code has been executed, wherein the completion buffer comprises information identifying the code for which execution has completed; responsive to receiving the signal from the completion buffer, setting, by the instruction cache, in metadata, an instruction access indicator, wherein each instruction access indicator is associated with a different portion of the code, and wherein each instruction access indicator is initialized as being unset prior to execution of its associated code portion as recited in the independent claim.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phillip H. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571)

270-1070. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wei Y. Zhen can be reached on (571) 272-3708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

PN
8/27/2008

/Wei Y Zhen/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2191